

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

KATHRYN BAUMAN RUBENSTEIN	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	CIVIL ACTION NO.
v.	)	1:07cv798-MHT
	)	
BETTY JO BAUMAN, et al.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**MOTION TO DISMISS**  
**OF DEFENDANT, MIDSOUTH BANK, N.A.**

COMES NOW the defendant, MidSouth Bank, N.A. (“MidSouth”)<sup>1</sup>, by and through its undersigned attorneys, and moves the Court pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to dismiss this action against MidSouth, and as grounds therefor submits the following:

1. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure embody the concept of liberalized “notice pleading”; i.e., that a complaint need contain only a statement calculated to “give the defendant fair notice of what the plaintiff’s claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.” *Swierkiewicz v. Sorema, N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 512, 122 S.Ct. 992,998, 152 L.Ed.2d 1 (2002); *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41, 47, 78 S.Ct. 99,102, 21 Law 2<sup>nd</sup> 861 (1957). As to MidSouth, Plaintiff’s Complaint fails to meet this minimum requirement.

2. Rule 8(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that a plaintiff make a short and plain statement of a claim showing entitlement to relief. See, *Hamilton v. Allen-Bradley Co.*, 217 F.3d 1321, 1325 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.2000) (“[T]he form of the complaint is insignificant, even if it

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<sup>1</sup>MidSouth Bank, N.A. is not named in the caption of Plaintiff’s Complaint as required by Rule 10(a), but is designated as a defendant in paragraph No. 55 thereof; however, even then this Defendant is incorrectly identified as “MidSouth Bank...an Alabama corporation”.

fails to categorize correctly the legal theory giving rise to the claim, **so long as the complaint alleges the facts on which relief can be granted.**”); and *Roe v. Aware Woman Center for Choice, Inc.*, 253 F.2d 678, 683-684 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.2001) ([W]hile notice pleading may not require that the pleader allege a ‘specific fact’ to cover every element or allege ‘with precision’ each element of a claim, **it is still necessary that a complaint ‘contain either direct or inferential allegations respecting all the material elements necessary to sustain a recovery under some viable legal theory.’** ”).

3. An examination of the allegations set forth in Plaintiff’s “Causes of Action” reveals that the Plaintiff alleges no facts at all with respect to MidSouth or even a general reference to any act, omission or wrongdoing of this Defendant, either directly or inferentially. Thus, Plaintiff’s Complaint fails to satisfy the even the minimal standard set by Rule 8(a)(2) insofar as this Defendant is concerned.

4. Rule 8(a)(3) requires that a complaint also contain “a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks.” See, *Goldsmith v. City of Atmore*, 996 F.2d 1155, 1161 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.1993) (“This requirement is not arduous - ‘any concise statement identifying the remedies and the parties against whom relief is sought will be sufficient,’ citing CHARLES A. WRIGHT & ARTHUR R. MILLER, *FEDERAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE* §1255 at 366 (2d ed. 1990)).

5. Again, Plaintiff’s “Prayer for Relief” makes no demand for relief as to MidSouth or even a reference to MidSouth. Plaintiff’s general demand for damages “against the Defendants” is insufficient to satisfy the requirement of Rule 8(a)(3), particularly since MidSouth is not one of the “Defendants” identified in her “Causes of Action.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>In fact, Plaintiff makes claims against only 31 of the 58 defendants named in her Complaint.

6. In ruling on a Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 12(b)(6) motion, “[d]ismissal is appropriate where it is clear the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of the claims in the complaint.” *Glover v. Liggett Group, Inc.*, 459 F.3d 1304, 1308 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006). In this case, because the Plaintiff did not plead any facts in support of a viable claim against MidSouth or request any relief against MidSouth, she failed to comply with the requirements of Fed.R.Civ.P. 8(a) and her Complaint is fatally flawed. Unquestionably, this Motion to dismiss MidSouth as a defendant in this case pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P 12(b)(6) for Plaintiff’s failure to state a claim against MidSouth is due to be granted.

Respectfully submitted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/EMF system which will serve notification of such filing on the following:

None

I further certify that I have served the following by placing a copy thereof in the United States Mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed:

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